

**For discussion on
12 July 2022**

Legislative Council Panel on Development

Annual Report on Implementation Progress of Heritage Conservation Initiatives

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the latest position of the implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives since our last report to the Panel in May 2021.

Identification and Assessment of Items of Heritage Value

Administrative grading system for historic buildings

2. The administrative grading system provides an objective basis for determining the heritage value, and hence preservation need, of historic buildings in Hong Kong. The Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”)¹, having regard to the assessments of the heritage value of individual historic buildings by an independent Historic Buildings Assessment Panel and the views and additional information received from members of the public and the owners of the buildings concerned during public consultation, has been giving Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 status² to historic buildings as appropriate.

¹ AAB is a statutory body established under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) to advise the Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Development) on matters relating to antiquities, proposed monuments or monuments.

² Under the grading system,

- Grade 1 status refers to buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible;
- Grade 2 status refers to buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve; and
- Grade 3 status refers to buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

3. As at mid-June 2022, grading assessment of the heritage value of 1 601 buildings have been completed, including 1 382 out of the 1 444 buildings³ and 219 out of some 350 items on the new list⁴. It is expected that confirmation of the grading of the 1 444 buildings could be completed by 2023. A breakdown of the 1 601 items are set out below:

- (a) 46 items declared as monument and require no further processing;
- (b) 199 items with Grade 1 status;
- (c) 396 items with Grade 2 status;
- (d) 600 items with Grade 3 status;
- (e) 334 items with no grading; and
- (f) 26 items with no further processing due to their demolition or substantial alteration.

Preparation for the Assessment of Post-1950 Buildings

4. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) set up a task force in 2019 to carry out preparatory work for the assessment of post-1950 buildings. The task force is conducting preliminary research on buildings built between 1950 and 1959, including collecting and reviewing information on some 2 700 buildings gathered from archives such as maps, photos, aerial photos, building plans, government records, academic papers, etc., with a view to compiling a list of buildings with potential heritage value. The research will provide baseline information to guide our future grading approach for post-1950 buildings, taking into consideration, amongst other things, the difference in architectural style and building form development between the pre-war and post-war period. The preliminary research is currently underway and we shall endeavor to complete the task in one to two years’ time.

5. While the preparatory work is being undertaken, 115 buildings constructed after 1950 with heritage value have been given grading on a case by case basis. AAB will continue to conduct grading assessment of buildings, including those built after 1950, under the prevailing mechanism

³ A territory-wide survey commissioned by Antiquities and Monuments Office from 1996 to 2000 recorded some 8 800 buildings which were mainly built before 1950. 1 444 of the buildings were selected for assessment, and AAB endorsed the proposed grading for these buildings in 2009. Since then, AAB has been confirming in batches the grading of the buildings, having regard to additional information and views received during the public consultation.

⁴ Through suggestions from the public and daily work of AMO, around 350 additional items have been added to the list of new items to be graded (“the new list”).

and accord priority to assess buildings with cogent needs, such as those affected by redevelopment or alteration plans.

Statutory monument declaration system

6. Between May 2021 and mid-June 2022, a total of six historic buildings have been declared as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). They are:

- (a) Bonham Road Government Primary School,
- (b) Old Tai Po Police Station,
- (c) Hip Tin Temple in Sha Tau Kok,
- (d) Jamia Mosque,
- (e) Lui Seng Chun, and
- (f) Hong Kong City Hall⁵.

7. At present, there are 132 declared monuments in Hong Kong. We will continue to identify suitable items for declaration as monuments to accord statutory protection.

Other items of heritage value

8. AMO conducts study, inspection and recording of other items which have potential heritage value but are outside the usual categories of buildings and structure, such as boundary stones, foundation stones. Where their heritage value is ascertained, such items will be added to the list of “Government Historic Sites Identified by AMO” for protection. For example, three City of Victoria Boundary Stones and four New Kowloon Boundary Stones have been added to the list for protection in December 2021 and May 2022 respectively. To facilitate a systematic research on and enhance the protection for boundary stones of heritage significance, AMO will collaborate with professional bodies such as the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors to search for and study boundary stones of significant historical value and record them according to professional land surveying standards. Workshops are also being planned to enhance

⁵ The subsidiary legislation for the declaration of the three historic buildings under items (d), (e) and (f) as monuments has been tabled at Legislative Council (“LegCo”) at its sitting on 25 May 2022 for negative vetting. The House Committee of LegCo has formed a subcommittee to scrutinize the subsidiary legislation. Subsequent to the subcommittee meeting held on 14 June 2022, a motion has been passed at the LegCo meeting on 22 June 2022 to extend the scrutiny period for the subsidiary legislation to 13 July 2022.

public's understanding in the context of land surveying and local history. AMO is working with the relevant departments to set up information signs to facilitate public appreciation of Government Historic Sites, where appropriate.

Inspection, Maintenance and Conservation of Items of Heritage Value

Regular Inspection

9. To conserve the built heritage and archaeological sites in Hong Kong, AMO conducts site inspections at regular intervals. The inspection arrangement also covers other items under "Government Historic Sites Identified by AMO", such as boundary stones with heritage significance. The inspection helps AMO maintain records of and monitor the general conditions of the items. AMO will offer owners or the management departments concerned technical advice on their restoration or repair proposals from the heritage conservation perspective. The findings of inspection also provide a basis for the Commissioner for Heritage's Office ("CHO") to approach the owners of private historic buildings and encourage them to apply for subsidies under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage to upkeep their graded buildings.

Internal monitoring mechanism

10. The Government has established an internal mechanism to monitor any plan to demolish or alter declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded buildings or buildings proposed to be graded. Under the mechanism, when the Buildings Department ("BD"), Lands Department and Planning Department become aware of possible threat to privately-owned sites of archaeological interest ("SAIs"), monuments, graded historic buildings and other buildings the grading of which are pending assessment or confirmation, say through applications and enquiries received and in their normal course of duty such as regular inspections, they will notify the CHO and AMO. The monitoring mechanism enables CHO and AMO to take timely follow-up actions with the private owners concerned, including reaching out to the owners to explore conservation options.

Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”)

11. Project proponents and works departments for all new capital works projects are required to consider whether their projects will affect sites or buildings of historic (including those graded, awaiting confirmation of grading as well as those to be graded) or archaeological significance, including those listed in “Government Historic Sites Identified by AMO” (collectively known as “heritage sites”). If so, HIA is required and mitigation measures should be devised.

12. A DEVB Technical Circular (Works) was issued in 2008 requiring project proponents of new capital works projects for submission of the stipulated HIA Checklist to AMO for comments and to determine the necessity of submitting an HIA report to AMO and AAB for endorsement. The technical circular was updated in April 2022 to, amongst others, set out more clearly information requirements for the HIA Checklist for determining the necessity of submitting an HIA report. As at mid-June 2022, 4 853 new capital works projects of different scales have gone through the HIA mechanism, among which 72 were required by AMO to conduct full HIA to assess the impacts of the proposed works on sites and buildings of historic and archaeological significance and interest.

13. In May 2022, CHO held a seminar to increase awareness and enhance understanding of works departments about the HIA mechanism. Similar seminars or sharing sessions will be held on a regular basis.

Preservation of historic remains discovered at works sites

14. To protect worthy archaeological resources in Hong Kong, AMO coordinates with works departments and examines development proposals to identify potential impacts to archaeological resources, especially those falling within the SAIs, and formulate mitigation measures. Since archaeological sites are finite and non-renewable cultural resources, adverse impacts such as excavation should be kept to an absolute minimum and only conducted where other mitigation measures are not applicable. Archaeological rescue excavations will be carried out where important archaeological resources will be affected by development, such as at the Sacred Hill archaeological site where there were rich Song-Yuan deposits but were affected by the construction of the Sung Wong Toi MTR

Station to enhance the public transportation network. More than 700 000 pieces of ceramic sherds dated to the Song-Yuan period and the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century were unearthed during the archaeological works conducted from 2012 to 2015. An exhibition on the archaeological discovery was launched in June 2021 at the Sung Wong Toi MTR Station (details in paragraph 41). In 2021, the rescue excavation conducted by AMO at a site in Lo So Shing on Lamma Island unearthed significant prehistoric archaeological artefacts, including pottery pots with geometric pattern and stone rings, and some prehistoric archaeological features such as burials.

15. AMO conducts research and studies on the excavation finds and facilitate researches by academia and the public by uploading the information of selected special finds unearthed in archaeological works after post-excavation processing onto the Hong Kong Archaeological Archive System accessible through the AMO website. The on-going research and study on the archaeological finds have generated significant volumes of new information that has contributed to Hong Kong's historical studies.

Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage (“FAS”)

16. In support of the conservation of privately-owned graded historic buildings, the Government launched the FAS in 2008 to provide subsidies to private owners of graded historic buildings to carry out maintenance works. Since November 2016, the ceiling of the grant for each successful application has been doubled from \$1 million to \$2 million and the scope has been expanded to cover the government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings leased to non-profit-making organisations (“NPOs”). Since the introduction of FAS in 2008, we have approved 101 applications as at mid-June 2022, involving committed funds of \$110 million.

17. On the basis of results received during regular inspection of graded historic buildings, we have stepped up efforts in reaching out to private owners with a view to encouraging them to apply for subsidies for maintenance and providing more assistance to the applicants during the application process. With a view to further enhancing the FAS, CHO has just embarked on a review on the application procedure and the

implementation mechanism of FAS including possible ways to streamline the approval procedures, in coordination with AMO, Architectural Services Department and other concerned departments including BD and Home Affairs Department. CHO and AMO will also monitor more closely the maintenance works to prevent delays.

Economic incentives for conservation of privately-owned historic buildings

18. On the premise of respecting private property rights, the Government offers appropriate economic incentives to encourage private owners to conserve their historic buildings. The economic incentives offered (such as policy support in planning application for relaxation of plot ratio and building height restriction) are considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the heritage value of the buildings concerned and the conservation approach proposed by the property owners, etc..

19. To encourage *in-situ* preservation of the entire Maryknoll House which is a Grade 1 historic building, taking into consideration the proposed use and development parameters, CHO provided policy support to the owner's rezoning application. The Town Planning Board ("TPB") agreed on the proposed amendments to the Outline Zoning Plan of the site of the Maryknoll House in January 2021, rezoning the concerned site to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Residential Development with Historic Building Preserved". CHO and AMO continued to discuss with and offer advice to the owner of the Maryknoll House on the preservation-cum-development project. The owner submitted a planning application to the TPB for the development project in which the Maryknoll House would be adaptive re-used as residential development and free guided tours would be provided in future. The TPB approved the relevant planning application in December 2021.

20. For Siu Lo (a Grade 3 historic building), upon learning the ownership change subsequent to the approval of its planning application by the TPB in March 2020, CHO liaised with the new owner of Siu Lo on the preservation-cum-development in the concerned lots. The new owner has agreed to adopt preservation-cum-development approach to develop the concerned lots, with Siu Lo preserved *in-situ* for adaptive re-use. The owner has submitted a new planning application, with proposed minor

relaxation of building height restriction for permitted social welfare facility (Residential Care Home for the Elderly) and proposed house use with conservation proposal, to TPB for consideration.

21. We will continue to monitor possible redevelopment plans involving graded historic buildings or buildings pending grading through the internal monitoring mechanism, and proactively approach owners for discussion of possible conservation-cum-development options.

Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”)

22. So far, 22 government-owned historic buildings have been included in six batches of the Revitalisation Scheme, with 11 projects in operation including the Pokfulam Farm revitalised from Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarters (Grade 1) which commenced trial operation since our last report. Separately, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Heritage Centre revitalised from No.12 School Street (Grade 3) held its opening ceremony on 11 June 2022. Starting from late July 2022, the public can access the ground floor exhibition area by appointment, while the whole historic building will be open to public in the third quarter of 2022. The Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre Eco-Learn Institute revitalised from Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre (Grade 2) will also commence operation in the latter half of 2022. The renovation works of three other projects, namely Roberts Block of Old Victoria Barracks, Luen Wo Market, and Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station, have commenced and the projects are scheduled to open in phases starting from 2024.

23. The assessment results of the first four projects under Batch VI, namely Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound (Declared Monument), Homi Villa (Grade 3), King Yin Lei (Declared Monument) and Fong Yuen Study Hall (Grade 3), were announced on 14 June 2022. A total of 42 applications were received in respect of these four projects. The Government will earmark funding of about \$586 million to subsidise the renovation of the four historic buildings and declared monuments concerned and another \$15 million to subsidise the initial operation of the projects. These projects are expected to be completed and come into operation in phases starting from 2025. Upon completion, a substantial part of the historic buildings and declared

monuments will be open for visit by the public. Free guided tours and open days will also be organised. The public will have more chances to appreciate the historic buildings and declared monuments and use their facilities, thereby enhancing their understanding and awareness of heritage conservation and revitalisation.

24. For the Former North Kowloon Magistracy (Grade 2) which was included into the same batch (i.e. Batch VI) of the Revitalisation Scheme at a later date, assessment of the 30 applications received is under way and the result is expected to be announced in the second half of this year after completion of the whole assessment process.

25. The progress of the various projects under the Revitalisation Scheme is summarised at **Annex A**.

26. With a view to further enhancing the Revitalisation Scheme and streamlining the process, the Government will conduct an overall review of the scheme in 2022 in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation (“ACBHC”)⁶. Areas to be reviewed include devising a systematic way to identify potential historic buildings for inclusion into the scheme; the launching mechanism; streamlining the application procedure and the assessment process; the assessment criteria; and the support to the NPOs.

Other Heritage Conservation Projects

Central Market

27. The Urban Renewal Authority had formulated the operation goals and mode of operation of the Central Market according to the guidelines established in the previous public engagement process and signed the operation contract with the operator selected through tendering procedures on 1 March 2021. Most parts of the Central Market have been opened to public since 23 August 2021 upon completion of the Phase 1 revitalisation works. With the completion of the Phase 2 revitalisation works, including the new façade facing Des Voeux Road Central and the escalators to the first and second floor in early 2022, the Central Market

⁶ ACBHC was formed in 2016 to advise the Government on the operation of the Built Heritage Conservation Fund (see paragraph 49 below).

has been fully opened to the public since April 2022. A variety of community and festive events for members of the public have been held at the revitalised Central Market, attracting more than 9 million visitor arrivals since Phase 1 opening until mid-June 2022.

Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Preservation Corridor at Kai Tak

28. In 2008, the remnants of the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (“LTSB”) were first identified during an archaeological investigation under the Kai Tak Development. After public consultation and further study, *in-situ* preservation of LTSB was recommended to preserve its heritage value for public enjoyment and promote public awareness on heritage conservation. Funding approval of Finance Committee (“FC”) of Legislative Council for implementing LTSB Preservation Corridor at Kai Tak was obtained on 26 March 2021. Construction work commenced in the second quarter of 2021 and is anticipated to be completed in four years in 2025.

The Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir (“Ex-SSP SR”)

29. AAB assessed the heritage value of the Ex-SSP SR at the meeting held on 11 March 2021, and subsequently endorsed its Grade 1 status on 10 June 2021. The relevant information and grading of this item together with the other items assessed, including their location plans, photos and heritage appraisals, have been uploaded to the website of AAB.

30. Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) launched a 360-degree virtual tour in March 2021 to enable the public to tour the service reservoir and appreciate its internal structures. The virtual tour enhances public understanding of the service reservoir. Also, WSD has been hosting guided tours of the place since December 2021. In view of the popular response from the public, WSD has increased the quotas of the visiting sessions, having regard to the requirements of the social distancing measures. As at mid-June 2022, the service reservoir received over 2 500 visitors.

31. We will examine the long-term conservation and revitalisation plan for the Ex-SSPSR, making reference to the views of the participants of the public guided tours, so as to identify a new use most suited for the service reservoir, with a view to enabling the public to better enjoy the

place.

Application of technology in heritage conservation

32. AMO has been exploring the application of the latest technologies in heritage conservation where possible. It has been using advanced 3D scanning to record heritage sites to facilitate restoration, studies and heritage education. 3D printing of historic buildings or their architectural features is also used at exhibitions to enrich the experience of visitors.

33. AMO is also tabbing into the technological advancement of drones and artificial intelligence algorithm, by deploying this technology to enhance the inspection of roof of heritage buildings and conditions of SAIs, where access is difficult, unsafe, resource-intensive and time-consuming. The captured images can be generated into high resolution 3D models and automatically processed to identify the defects at the surveyed sites/areas.

Facilitating adaptive re-use of historic buildings

34. To facilitate the adaptive re-use of historic buildings under the building regulations, we have been updating the “Practice Guidebook for Adaptive Re-use and Alteration and Addition Works to Heritage Building 2012” (the “Guidebook”) by phases since 2016. The updates take into account the experience gained in carrying out alteration and addition works to historic buildings, such as those arising from the projects under the Revitalisation Scheme. The latest edition was issued in February 2021. The Guidebook provides clear and concrete references to built heritage practitioners and private owners of historic buildings.

Promotion, Public Education and Public Enjoyment

Funding Scheme for Thematic Research

35. The Funding Scheme for Thematic Research was launched in 2017 to encourage interest in, render financial support to, and recognise quality academic research on the theme of built heritage conservation.

The grant ceiling for each successful application is \$2 million. So far, six thematic researches were approved with a total grant of \$11.41 million.

36. Among the six approved thematic researches, four have been completed and the respective research teams have presented their research findings to ACBHC. The remaining two research teams are finalising their research reports. We will review, upon completion of the remaining two thematic research projects later this year, the funding scheme with a view to providing recommendations on aspects such as the research themes, eligible institutions and application process for launching the next batch of the funding scheme based on the review results. We will present the review results to ACBHC and consult ACBHC on the recommendations for enhancement of the funding scheme.

Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects

37. The Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects was launched in 2017 to offer financial support for public education, community involvement and publicity activities. The grant ceiling for each successful application is \$2 million. Three public engagement projects were approved so far with a total grant of \$5.91 million.

38. All activities of the public engagement projects were completed by December 2021, including exhibitions, thematic lectures, guided tours to historic buildings, workshops, site visits, creative competition and online forum. As of 31 December 2021, these activities attracted over 16 100 participants.

39. Review on the funding scheme is being conducted and is expected to complete in the latter half of 2022 with a view to evaluating the performance of the three approved public engagement projects and providing recommendations on aspects such as the project themes, mode of activities and eligibility of applicants for implementation of the next batch of the funding scheme subject to the review results. We will present the review results to ACBHC and consult ACBHC on the recommendations for enhancement of the funding scheme.

Publicity and Public Education

40. In the past year, we have substantially expanded our publicity and public education efforts to enhance public appreciation of heritage conservation in Hong Kong. Various channels, including TV, social media, virtual and online events in addition to physical ones were engaged to promote our heritage both locally and beyond.

41. In June 2021, we commenced the first archaeological exhibition in an MTR station – the “Treasures from Sacred Hill: Song-Yuan Archaeological Discoveries at Sung Wong Toi” at the newly opened Sung Wong Toi Station on Tuen Ma Line. It is the first time that such exhibition is held off site at a location very accessible by the public, and at the site of the archaeological discovery. The exhibition received overwhelming public support. We will continue to update the exhibits to renew public interest and deepen public understanding of the history of Hong Kong.

42. We collaborated with a local TV channel to produce twelve TV episodes on heritage buildings in Hong Kong, with some of the episodes focusing on Tai Po to illustrate the history of Hong Kong in a district context. The episodes were broadcast between March and July 2021. We are working with the channel on production of further TV programmes to sustain the promotional efforts.

43. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many public engagement events (e.g. talks, workshops, walks) have been changed to online or hybrid (i.e. both physical and virtual) format. Such conversion enables the public to attend the event safely. It also allows participation by those who may have difficulty travelling to the physical venue or are outside Hong Kong. In future, where appropriate, we will continue to allow virtual participation to let more people enjoy our heritage. The events could also be archived to create a heritage library for future appreciation.

44. In January 2022, we launched HKHeritageLIVE, our Instagram platform to publicise heritage conservation and allow cross-promotion of events related to built heritage to the younger generation.

45. We will also strive to plan our activities with social inclusion in mind. From March to May 2022, a built heritage-themed drawing competition for the disabled was organised with the support from the Equal

Opportunities Commission and various social enterprises serving the disabled. In the exhibition on “Habits and Haberdashery – Uncovering History and Heritage in the Hidden Attic” recently opened on 24 June 2022, we have made arrangements to facilitate appreciation by the visually-impaired in collaboration with the Hong Kong Society for the Blind. Where possible, we will continue to incorporate elements in our events and exhibitions that would encourage participation and appreciation by the disabled.

46. Separately, we are utilising cross-over events with cultural/sports elements to broaden the reach of heritage conservation promotion and enhance the heritage appreciation experience. We organised Heritage x Music concerts in late 2021 to tie in with the declaration of the Bonham Road Government Primary School as monument. A series of heritage runs is also in the pipeline in various districts to promote appreciation of heritage buildings in a district context during exercise.

47. In November 2022, we will be staging a number of major heritage events in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The popular Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road event will return with a host of cultural performances, guided tours, exhibitions, booths and workshops for public enjoyment. A Greater Bay Area Built Heritage Summit will be held to foster exchange of knowledge, experience and deployment of advanced technology in built heritage conservation, revitalisation, education and engagement amongst the region and explore collaboration. We will also be staging an exhibition on the use of technology to enhance public appreciation of heritage conservation.

48. Details of the public engagement events are set out in **Annex B**.

Injection into the Built Heritage Conservation Fund (“BHCF”)

49. The FAS, the Funding Schemes for Public Engagement Projects and Thematic Research, and the capital costs of works projects and capital non-works expenditure of the Revitalisation Scheme as described in the preceding sections are funded by the BHCF. From 2007 up to 2022, a total of \$2.6 billion has been earmarked for BHCF. In the 2022-23

Budget, the Government announced the injection of an additional \$1 billion into BHCF to continue to take forward the various initiatives. Among the \$1 billion, \$0.8 billion is earmarked to cover the capital costs of works projects under the Revitalisation Scheme and \$0.2 billion is reserved for non-works initiatives in conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings. As at mid-June 2022, out of the total \$3.6 billion earmarked for the BHCF, funds committed for the capital costs of work projects under the Revitalisation Scheme and non-works initiative in conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings are about \$2.16 billion and \$0.2 billion respectively. The estimated cash flow requirements for non-works initiatives have been included in the 2022-23 Estimates and will be reflected in the draft Estimates of the relevant financial years. As for works projects under the Revitalisation Scheme with estimated capital cost over \$15 million, funding approval will be sought from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Advice Sought

50. Members are invited to note the latest position of the implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives.

Development Bureau
July 2022

**Projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings
Through Partnership Scheme (the “Revitalisation Scheme”)**

Batch I

The following four projects under Batch I of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Old Tai O Police Station** – it has been revitalised as the “Tai O Heritage Hotel”, and started operation in March 2012. The project received an Award of Merit in the 2013 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (“UNESCO Awards”). By mid-June 2022, over 1 877 000 visitors have visited the hotel;
- (b) **Lui Seng Chun** – it has been revitalised into “Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine – Lui Seng Chun”, a Chinese medicine and healthcare centre. The centre commenced operation in April 2012. By mid-June 2022, over 556 000 visitors have visited the revitalised building;
- (c) **Mei Ho House** – it has been revitalised into the “YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel”, comprising 129 guest rooms, a cafeteria and a museum on public housing development in Hong Kong. The hostel started operation in October 2013. The project received an Honourable Mention in the 2015 UNESCO Awards. By mid-June 2022, over 1 545 000 visitors have visited the hostel; and
- (d) **Former Lai Chi Kok Hospital** – this cluster of historic buildings has been revitalised into the “Jao Tsung-I Academy”, a centre for promoting Chinese culture. Operation of the

Academy commenced in February 2014. By mid-June 2022, over 1 674 000 visitors have visited the place.

Batch II

2. The following three projects under Batch II of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Old Tai Po Police Station** – it has been revitalised into the “Green Hub” for sustainable living. Educational programmes and training camps are provided under the project to develop, teach and promote affordable strategies for ecologically responsible and low carbon living. Operation commenced in August 2015. The project received an Honourable Mention in the 2016 UNESCO Awards. By mid-June 2022, over 319 000 visitors have visited the place;
- (b) **Stone Houses** – the site has been revitalised into the “Stone Houses Family Garden”, a themed cafeteria-cum-visitor information centre. The project commenced operation in October 2015. By mid-June 2022, over 1 160 000 visitors have visited the place; and
- (c) **Blue House Cluster** – it has been revitalised into the “Viva Blue House”, a multi-functional complex providing residential accommodation and various kinds of services to the local community. Grand opening of the project was held in September 2017. The project won the Award of Excellence in the 2017 UNESCO Awards. It is the first time a built heritage conservation project in Hong Kong has received this top honour. By mid-June 2022, over 240 000 visitors have visited the cluster.

Batch III

3. The following three projects under Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Bridges Street Market** – it has been revitalised into the “Hong Kong News-Expo”. Operation commenced in December 2018. By mid-June 2022, over 90 000 visitors have visited the place;
- (b) **Former Fanling Magistracy** – it has been revitalised into “The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Leadership Institute”, providing training programmes on leadership skills. The project commenced operation in December 2018. By mid-June 2022, over 248 000 visitors have visited the Institute; and
- (c) **Haw Par Mansion** – it has been revitalised as the “Haw Par Music”, a music school providing training on Chinese and Western music and promoting the exchange of Chinese and Western music culture. The project commenced operation in December 2018. By mid-June 2022, over 105 000 visitors have visited the place.

Batch IV

4. There are three projects under Batch IV of the Revitalisation Scheme:

- (a) **No. 12 School Street** – it has been revitalised into the “Tai Hang Fire Dragon Heritage Centre”, which also houses a themed restaurant. The project introduces the history and culture of the Tai Hang Fire Dragon and promotes traditional Hakka culture. An opening ceremony was held on 11 June 2022;
- (b) **Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarters** – it has been revitalised into “The Pokfulam Farm”, a living museum revealing the history and operation of the Old Dairy Farm, and presenting the culture of Pokfulam village and the surrounding area. The project has commenced trial operation in on 21 April 2022. By mid-June 2022, over 11 000 visitors have visited the place;

- (c) **Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre** – it has been revitalised into the “Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre Eco-Learn Institute”, which provides education programmes on biodiversity with the aim of enhancing the public awareness of the importance of ecology conservation and the concept of sustainable development. It will start operation in the latter half of 2022.

Batch V

5. There are four projects under Batch V of the Revitalisation Scheme:

- (a) **Roberts Block, Old Victoria Barracks** will be revitalised into the “Roberts Block Creative Arts Therapy Centre”;
- (b) **Luen Wo Market** will be revitalised into the “Luen Wo Market – House of Rural and Urban Living”;
- (c) **Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station** will be revitalised into the “Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station – Hong Kong Guide Dogs Academy”; and
- (d) **Watervale House, Former Gordon Hard Camp** was planned to be revitalised into the “Tuen Mun Soul Oasis”.

6. The non-profit-making organisation for item 5(d) withdrew from the project in January 2021 because their management focus has changed significantly and they can no longer provide the counselling and community services as originally intended. We will consider including this historic building in the next batch of the Revitalisation Scheme.

7. Funding for the other three projects were approved by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council in September 2021. Renovation works of these three projects have commenced in early 2022.

Batch VI

8. There are five historic buildings (i.e. **Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound, Homi Villa, King Yin Lei, Fong Yuen Study Hall and Former North Kowloon Magistracy**) under Batch VI of the Revitalisation Scheme. The Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation has completed the assessment of the applications for the first four historic buildings and selection results were announced on 14 June 2022 as follows:

- (a) **Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound** will be revitalised into “EARTH - Eco, Art & Culture, Revitalisation, Technology and Heritage”;
- (b) **Homi Villa** will be revitalised into “CNHE Youyou Villa”;
- (c) **King Yin Lei** will be revitalised into “King Yin Lei - a Healthy Living Centre based on Pu’er Tea & TCM”; and
- (d) **Fong Yuen Study Hall** will be revitalised into “Fong Yuen Study Hall – Experiential Learning Centre”.

9. As for **Former North Kowloon Magistracy**, assessment of the applications is underway and the results are expected to be announced in the second half of this year after completion of the whole assessment process.

Development Bureau
July 2022

Public Engagement Events

Since the last progress report in May 2021, the Government has organised the following publicity and public education activities in compliance with social distancing measures as appropriate:

- (a) “Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition 2021” featuring 11 government-owned revitalised historic buildings was held from 1 September to 31 December 2021 with around 259 200 participants;
- (b) Photo points at Batches I to III of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”) projects were promoted on Instagram (“IG”) platform in August 2021 and the campaign attracted 561 likes and reached 133 565 IG users;
- (c) Between May 2021 and mid-June 2022, amidst the pandemic, Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) has continued to launch a rich array of educational and engagement programmes. It has conducted a total of 42 public lectures, delivered either in on-line or in hybrid mode at the Heritage Discovery Centre (“HDC”), recording a total attendance of 10 408. The lectures were themed on the exhibitions on display or on special themes, e.g. the six lectures jointly organised with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (“HKIA”) from July to September 2021 entitled “NOT Fixed to the Styles - Exploring Architectural Styles of Built Heritage in Hong Kong” were themed on the styles of local built heritage. Other public lectures covered a rich variety of topics, such as “Hip Tin Temple, Sha Tau Kok and Tung Wo Market” and “Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Stone Bridge – Now & Past” focusing on declared monuments, and the lectures in collaboration with the Department of Architecture, Chu Hai College of Higher Education to appreciate the beauty of local historic Chinese architecture and the application of technology

to record and analyse historic buildings;

- (d) To complement the declaration of monuments, apart from conducting talks, special events like heritage crosses over music were held, e.g. "Joyful BRGPS: Sharing on the Newly Declared Monument" was jointly organised by AMO and Hong Kong Architectural Centre in late 2021 for the public to listen to the amazing stories of the monument shared by architects, accompanied by the enchanting melodies presented by Haw Par Music. Besides, short videos on newly declared monuments, i.e. the Hong Kong City Hall (the "City Hall"), Jamia Mosque and Lui Seng Chun are produced and have been uploaded to IG "hkheritagealive" and the website of AMO;

- (e) In June 2021, AMO collaborated with Highways Department and MTR Corporation Limited to stage its first off-site display at Sung Wong Toi MTR Station. The exhibition, entitled "Treasures from Sacred Hill: Song-Yuan Archaeological Discoveries at Sung Wong Toi", was curated by AMO to showcase about 400 archaeological finds painstakingly selected from more than 700 000 pieces of ceramic shreds dated to the Sung and Yuen period excavated from the site of Sung Wong Toi Station between 2012 and 2015. Overwhelmingly positive responses from the general public were received with an attendance of more than 530 000 despite the temporary closure of the exhibition from 15 February to 20 April 2022 owing to the severity of the pandemic. In conjunction with the exhibition, four workshops on "Reconstructing Archaeological Relics Unearthed from Sung Wong Toi Area" were delivered at HDC from September to December 2021 to introduce to the public Song-Yuan ceramics and demonstrated the techniques of ceramics reconstruction;

- (f) AMO enhanced collaboration with non-profit-making organisations to foster the public's understanding of and interest in heritage conservation by delivering varied interesting education activities. For instance, DIY carpentry workshops for Tessera Coaster and "Lo Pan Lock" with mortise and tenon

joint were run between October and December 2021. Christmas cookies drawing workshops were held in December 2021 in collaboration with a social enterprise to promote the public's understanding of the historic churches in Hong Kong and to draw churches on cookies. All these workshops were fully subscribed soon after the applications were open and the comment and responses given by the participants were positive;

- (g) In addition, a series of community engagement projects has been launched to enhance public awareness of and interest in heritage conservation as well as for social inclusion. A social inclusion programme, "Art Unbound, Inclusion Absolute – Heritage for All" Drawing Competition has been held to invite the participation of people with disabilities, and to encourage them to be engaged in social activities. It is hoped the event would encourage social inclusion of people with disabilities by introducing their artworks to the public, and promote appreciation of antiquities and monuments in Hong Kong. A total of 130 entries have been received up to the deadline for entry submission on 31 May 2022;
- (h) A heritage promotion campaign, "Walk in Tai Po" is being run for the public to unveil the best-kept secrets of Tai Po and walk through the streets and villages in Tai Po through AMO's dedicated website, docent training programmes, as well as physical and online guided tours (subject to the latest pandemic situation). The first session of online guided tour, attracting a breaking record attendance of 699, was held on 2 April 2022, and one more session was held on 21 May 2022;
- (i) To further promote heritage conservation to the public, AMO collaborated with a local TV channel to produce twelve TV episodes broadcast between March and July 2021 to feature the restoration of Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps and Tat Tak Communal Hall, the story and architecture of Confucian Hall and Bonham Road Government Primary School, as well as the history and the stories of the monuments, historic buildings and archaeological artifacts of Tai Po district; and

- (j) To facilitate the development and promotion of heritage tourism in Hong Kong, we are in close liaison with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the provision of information on Hong Kong built heritage and updates about heritage projects (such as Revitalisation Scheme projects).

2. We continue to keep the public informed of developments and engage them on the heritage front and our heritage conservation work through:

- (a) our dedicated heritage website (www.heritage.gov.hk);
- (b) since June 2008, our bimonthly heritage newsletter, “活化@Heritage” has been effective in the dissemination of heritage conservation information. The newsletters are distributed both electronically and in printed form with a circulation of over 6 200 copies per issue;
- (c) Hong Kong Heritage LIVE, our IG platform, was launched on 3 January 2022 that has attracted 3 150 followers as of 15 June 2022; and
- (d) Friends of Heritage and Young Friends of Heritage schemes were revamped to invite more interested individuals, including youngsters, to join the schemes to explore the fun in understanding heritage. Applications are made open all the year round.

3. We will roll out the following events in the second half of 2022 and beyond. They are:

- (a) Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, a new edition of Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022 will be presented at Tai Kwun, Police Married Quarters (“PMQ”), Man Mo Temple along the Hollywood Road and

expanded to cover the nearby nine historic buildings in Central and Western District (Bridges Street Centre of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, Central Market, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, Fringe Club, the City Hall, Hong Kong News-Expo, Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, The Helena May, The Murray) on 20 November 2022. Performing arts and cultural events, guided tours, themed exhibition, workshops will be offered. Organised by Commissioner for Heritage's Office, the co-organisers of the event are Antiquities and Monuments Office, PMQ, Tai Kwun and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. Supporting organisations include the non-profit-making organisations running Batches I to IV of the Revitalisation Scheme, Hong Kong Design Institute, Hong Kong Art Galleries Association, Italian Cultural Institute of Hong Kong, Storius App, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, The Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University. Various artists and performers will also join hands to provide pro-bono services to this event. Free hop-on-hop-off bus services along the road will be provided to the public for joining the activities.

(b) Roving Exhibition on Batches I to IV of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme

The captioned roving exhibition will be launched at International Finance Centre in Central in conjunction with Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022 from 19 to 30 November. The exhibitions will then be presented at local libraries until 31 December 2022.

(c) Greater Bay Area Built Heritage Summit

With the aim of fostering exchange of knowledge, experience and deployment of advanced technology in built heritage conservation, revitalisation, education and engagement amongst the Greater Bay Area ("GBA") as well as deepening region-wide

collaboration, CHO and AMO are planning and organising a regional summit to be held at the City Hall on 9 to 10 November 2022, sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Heritage policy makers of GBA, representatives of major heritage and archaeological institutions, operators of successful conservation and revitalisation projects in GBA and leading industry professionals will speak at the summit. To complement the summit, an exhibition deploying advanced technology to promote built heritage conservation will be staged at the City Hall. Following the summit, an excursion to important heritage sites and recent revitalisation projects will be organised on 11 November 2022.

(d) Virtual tours of historic buildings

To promote Hong Kong's built heritage, AMO will launch pilot project to produce virtual tours for featured declared monuments and graded historic buildings in the 18 districts on AMO's website. With the adoption of 3D technology, the virtual tours will facilitate public appreciation of Hong Kong built heritage, including some sites which may not be open to the public or are located in remote areas. Visitors from outside Hong Kong can also enjoy our heritage sites virtually with no restrictions. The whole project is expected to be completed in late 2023.

Development Bureau
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